¶ A BOOKE of certaine Canons, concernyng some parte of the discipline of the Churche of England.

In the yeare of our Lord.

1571.

AT LONDON
Printed by Iohn Daye, dwellyng ouer Aldersgate.

¶ *Cum gratia & Priuilegio Regiæ Maiestatis.*

3. Of Byshops.
6. Of Deanes of churches.
9. Of Archdeacones.
11. Of Chaunceloꝛs. &c.
17. Of Churchwardens.
22. Of Preachers.
24. Of Residence.
25. Of Pluralities.
25. Of Scholemasters.
27. Of Patrones. &c.

¶Here foloweth in this booke ſome certayne articles of the holy miniſterie, and of the offices of the Church, fully agreed vpon by Matthew Archbyſhoppe of Caunterburie, Primate of all England, and Metropolitane, and all other Byſhops of the ſame Prouince, which were partly preſent in perſon, and partly ſubſcribed by the handes of their Proctors, in a Synode begonne at London in the Churche of S. Paule the thirde day of Aprill. 1571.

ALl Byſhoppes ſhall diligently teach the Goſpell, not onely in their Cathedrall Churches which they gouerne, but alſo indifferently in all the Churches of euery o their dioceſſe, where they ſhall thynke it moſt nedefull.

And principally they ſhall exhorte their people to the readyng, & hearing of the holy ſcriptures, and that they come together in times appoynted, euery man to his owne Church, and that they geue eare diligently to the preachers of the Goſpel, and that both they doe heare reuerently the godly prayers, which ſhall be ſpoken by the miniſter, and alſo praye themſelues with hym, and that they bee partakers of the heauenly myſteries, as they be now godly or-

deined and lawfully in our churches by the authoritie and commaundemente of the whole Realme.

Euery Byſhop before the fyrſt day of September next, ſhall call vnto hym the publique preachers, ſuch as ſhall be in his owne dioceſſe, and ſhall require agayne of them, their licences of preaching, which they haue ſigned with any autenticall ſeale, which they ſhall reteyne with themſelues, or els aboliſh. After prudent choiſe made of them, he ſhall geue readilye agayne new licences to them whom he ſhall finde able to that great office, in reſpecte of their yeares, doctrine, iudgement, honeſtie of lyfe, modeſtie and grauitie: and yet ſo that they firſt ſubſcribe to the articles of Chriſtian religion, publiquely approued in the Synode, and that they make promiſe willingly to mayntayne, & defend that doctrine, wihch is conteyned in them, as moſt agreable to the veritie of Gods worde.

The Biſhop muſt very diligently cõſider what maner of men he do admit into hys houſholde: for it chaunceth ſometymes where thys foreſight is not vſed, that wicked men, & enemyes to the true religion, vitious men, and corrupte in all their life, yea, and men voyde of grace, be admitted. Whereby the aduerſarie wyll ſoone take occaſion to ſpeake euill.

The Byſhops ſeruaunts ſhall ſo modeſtly & orderly apparel thẽſelues, in enery part of their garments, that they do not offend their brethrẽ whom Paule calleth of the houſholde of fayth.

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The Byſhop ſhall lay hys handes on none henceforward, but ſuch as haue bene trayned vp in good letters, eyther in the vniuerſitie, or ſome other inferior ſchole, or that doth vnderſtand the Latine tounge competently, and hath bene well exerciſed in the holy ſcriptures: nor yet on any, except he be of that lawfull age which is appoynted by the ſtatute and lawe: nor except hys lyfe & honeſt behauiour, be commended by the teſtimony of graue and godly men, and ſuch as are well knowne vnto the byſhop: nor on any that hath bene brought vp in huſbandrie, or ſome other baſe and handicraft labour: nor on any, but ſuch as haue ſome title (as they call it) whereby he may lyue, if by Gods ſufferaunce, he become blynde, or fall into greuous ſickeneſſe of the bodye, or into a continuall & languiſhing diſeaſe: nor except he wyll exerciſe the holy miniſterye wythin hys owne dioceſſe: nor at any other tyme, but whē it ſhal chaunce, that ſome place of miniſtration is voyde in the ſame dioceſſe. And he ſhall admitte no ſtraunger, nor any that he knoweth not, eyther to the profites of any benefice, or to eccleſiaſticall miniſterie, except he bryng wyth hym that byſhops letters of commendations, which they cal letters dimiſſories, out of whoſe dioceſſe he came.

The byſhop ſhall not graunt vnto any man the next, or ſecond, or thirde aduouſon, (as they cal it) of any prebend or benefice belonging vnto him: for thoſe aduouſons are farre frō good

doynges and christian charitie: neyther shall he ratifie and confirme the leases of any profites or reuenewes of any parsonage, or ecclesiasticall benefice, for terme of many yeares, in any wyse.

The Bishop shall suffer no man to be occupied in the ministration of the Church, which calleth hymselfe by the idle name of a reader, not hauing receyued imposition of handes.

Euery Archbishop and bishop shall haue in hys house The holy Bible in the largest volume, as it was lately printed at London, and also that full and perfect history, which is intituled Monumentes of Martyres, and other such lyke bokes, fit for the setting forth of religion. These bookes must be placed either in the hall, or in the great chamber, that they may serue to the vse of their seruantes, and of straingers.

Deanes of Cathedrall Churches.

THe very same bookes, which we spake of last, euery Deane shall cause to be bought, and to be bestowed in his Cathedrall Church, in such conuenient place, that the vicares and peticanōs, and other ministers of the Church, as also straungers and forreners may easelie come vnto them, and read theron.

The Deane, and euery chiefe Residentarie, whom

whom they call the dignities of the Church, shall buye the same bookes euery one for hys owne familye, and shall lay them in some fit place, eyther in hall, or in the chamber.

The Deane & his prebendaries shall preach the worde of God diligently, not onely in the cathedrall Church where they liue, but in other churches also of the same Dioces, and especialye in the same places whence they receiue yearely reuenewes and profites. Which if they do not, they shall be punished according to the discretion of the Byshop.

No Deane, nor Archdeacon, nor Residentarie, nor master, nor warden, nor head of any colledge, or cathedrall church, neither presidēt, nor Rector, nor any of ỹ order, by what name soeuer they be called, shall hereafter weare the Graye Amice, or any other garment which hath bene defiled with ỹ like superstition. But euery one of them in their churches shal weare onely that linnen garment, which is as yet reteined by the Queenes commaundement, and also hys schollers hoode, according to euerye mans calling, and degree in schole.

Euerye Deane shalbe resident in his cathedrall Church, foure tymes a yeare at the least. And shall continue there, by the space of a moneth euery tyme (if he may possibly) in preaching the word of God, and keeping good hospitalitie, except he shall be otherwyse letted with weighty, and vrgent causes. Which causes he shall at euery such tyme, declare vnto his

ordinarie. When he is come to the Church, he together with hys prebendaries resident, shall foresee that the statutes of his church, if they be not contrary to the woorde of God (as many are) and that the statutes of this realme what soeuer, concernyng ecclesiasticall order, and all Iniunctions, eyther set forth by the Queenes Maiestie, or enioyned by the bishop in hys visitation of the same Church, be diligently obserued. Moreouer the Deane and Residentaries shall endeuour, as much as lieth in thē, that the peticanons or vicares, and other ministers of their Church, (lest they liue idlely and vnprofitably in slouthfulnes, and geue themselues to vnlawfull gaming,) be constrayned to the studye of the holy Scriptures, and that euery one of them haue the newe testament, not onely in Latine, but also in English.

The Deanes and Residentaries shall see that there be no other forme obserued in singing, or saying prayers, or in the administration of the Sacramentes, but onely that which is sette forth, and prescribed in the booke of Common Prayers: neyther shall they suffer any straunger to preach vnto the people, excepte the Queenes Maiestie, or the Archbyshop of the same Prouince, or the Byshop of the same Dioces, haue graunted hym licence thereunto. And if such a Preacher so allowed, eyther by the Queenes Maiestie, or by the Archbishop or byshop, shall in hys Sermon publishe any doctrine eyther straunge, wycked, or disagree-

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able with the worde of God: or with the Articles of our Religion, agreed vpon in the Conuocation house (which no doubt are consonant to the Scriptures,) or with the booke of common Prayers: the Deane, or the Residentes, shall assone as may be, geue notice of the same to the Byshop, by theyr letters, subscribed also with some of theyr handes, which hearde him preach: that he may determine on the matter, as he shall see good.

Archedeacons.

EVery Archedeacon shall haue in hys house, both the other bookes, and namely those which are entituled, Monumentes of Martyrs.

Euery Archedeacon whiche hath authoritie to visite, eyther by common law, or by prescription, shall visite his territory once euery yeare in his owne person: and he shall not substitute any to be his Officiall, but such à one as hath bene brought vp in the vniuersities, and hath studied the ciuill law, and is of the full age of xxiiij. yeares, being able not onely in learning, but also in grauety, and modesty to discharge that office.

Arcedeacons and theyr substitutes (whome they call Officialles) shall call the clergie to accompt in theyr visitations, how much euery one of them hath profited in the studie of Scripture, and shall geue vnto so many of them, as

haue not taken the degree of a maister of Arte vpon them in the vniuersitie, some parte of the new Testament to be learned without booke, and at the next Synode shall compell them to make repetition thereof: and they shall detecte vnto the Bishop, such as are eyther stubburne, or negligent herein.

When the visitation is finished, the Archedeacon shall signifie vnto the Bishop, whome he hath founde in euery Deanery, so furnished with learnyng and iudgement, that they may be thought worthy to enstruct the people in sermõs, and to rule and gouerne others. Of these the bishop may chuse some, whome he wil haue rurall Deanes.

Archdeacons shall straightly and seuerely punish all offenders, & not winke at their faultes, or suffer any man to escape vnpunished, who is knowen to haue offended.

Archedeacons shall haue a speciall care, that the monumentes of their actes, and doinges be faythfully and safely preserued: and shall once euery yeare bring to their bishop, all the originall copies of such testamentes, which shalbe proued before them the yeare before, that they may be preserued by the bishops Register. They shall write out the copies of the same Testamentes to their own vse, if they will.

Chaun-

Euery Chauncellor, Commissary and officiall, shalbe learned in the ecclesiasticall and ciuil lawes, and such one as is twenty and sixe yeres olde, and hath taken some degree in the scholes for learnings sake, and is reasonably well practised in course of law, touching whose lyfe and maners, no euill reporte be heard. Besides, euery one of these either shall be in the ministerie, or if he be not, yet shall he be well affected, and zealously bent toward religion, and such he shall openly and freely shew himselfe, and before he enter his office, he shall take an othe of the authoritie and supremacy of the Prince, and also shall subscribe to the articles of religion allowed in the conuocation of bishops.

None of these, neyther Chauncellor, Commissary, nor Officiall shal proceede in examination of matters vnto the sentence of excommunication, but onely in causes of instances. In matters of correction, they shall doe all other things which lawfully they may and are wont to be done.

But the sentence of excommunication they shall leaue onely to the Bishoppe, which either he himselfe shall pronounce, or shall commit the pronouncing therof to some graue man, which is in the ministerie. After that he hath geuen sentence, he shall also adde, for a warning and terror to the people, a certaine order of wordes

which after ſhalbe ſhewed: and alſo ſhall cauſe ſome like inſtrument, which ſhall be vſed in ſignifying the excommunication to the people to be wꝛitten out, and ſent to euery miniſter in theyꝛ churches, that they may haue it in readines to occuppe, if neede require. But the penaunce enioyned, neyther Chauncelloꝛ, Archdeacon, Officiall, noꝛ Commiſſarye, ſhall alter. That authoꝛitie foꝛ many waighty cauſes, is reſerued onely to the Byſhop, oꝛ if he ſhall appoynt any other, by ſpeciall commaundement foꝛ that purpoſe.

No eccleſiaſticall Judge, of what place, oꝛ degree ſoeuer he be, ſhall abſolue any that is excommunicated, at his owne houſe, oꝛ otherwiſe in pꝛiuate houſes, but onely openly, and in the conſiſtoꝛy,

Chauncelloꝛs, Officialles, Commiſſaries, ſhall do theyꝛ endeuour, that all others which are vnder theyꝛ iuriſdiction, do theyꝛ duty. Eſpetially, that Paꝛſons, Vicars, and Miniſters of churches may paynfully be occuppyed in the ſcriptures: that they pꝛouide them bookes fitte foꝛ theyꝛ degree and pꝛofeſſion, that whoſoeuer hath not pꝛoceeded maiſter of arte, buy foꝛ him ſelfe two bookes of the new Teſtamente, the one tranſlated in Latine, the other in Engliſh, that euery one of them learne without booke, that taſke of Scꝛiptures, whiche is enioyned him, either by ỹ oꝛdinary eccleſiaſticall Judge, oꝛ by ſome other, whom foꝛ his truſt and paynfulnes the Biſhop wyll rather chuſe: that they

obſerue

obſerue the orders, and rytes preſcribed in the booke of common prayers, as well in reading the holy ſcripture, and ſaying of prayers, as in admiſtration of the ſacraments: that they neyther diminiſh, nor adde any thing, neyther of the matter, nor of the manner: that they behaue them ſelues honeſtly, and goe modeſtly and comely in ſober apparell appoynted in the booke of aduertiſementes: that if they haue a family, and haue no wife, they keepe no other woman at their houſe, but either their mother, ſiſter, or neece by brother or ſiſter: but if they liue vnmaryed, and haue no wiues, let them not boorde in any tauerne, or alehouſe, but in ſome honeſt houſe in the ſame pariſhe, where they may liue without ſuſpition: that they play not at dice, cardes, or other vnlawfull games: that they vſe their bow and ſhaftes onely, and that to refreſhe theyr mindes, modeſtly, and in due time, that they be not let from doing their dutie, or ſtudie of the holy ſcripture.

They ſhall take heed alſo, that no Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, ſerue any where, eyther in chappell, or other place of prayer, or ſay common ſeruice in any priuate mans houſe, except the Biſhop graunt him licence by hys owne inſtrument and ſubſcription of his hand: and that no Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, ſerue any more then one church or chappell in one day.

Euery miniſter of the church, before he enter that holy function, ſhall ſubſcribe to all articles of chriſtian religion, which were agreed

vpon in the conuocation, and whereſoeuer the Biſhop ſhall commaunde, ſhall declare hys conſcience to the people, what he thinketh of thoſe articles, and the whole doctrine. And he being once admitted into the holy miniſtery, ſhall from thencefoorth neuer departe from it, nor ſhall vſe himſelfe as a laye man, eyther in apparell, or in any part of his life.

Euery Parſon, Uicar, or Curate ſhall yearlye before twenty dayes after Eaſter, exhibite to the Biſhop, or to his Chaũcellor or Commiſſary, the names and ſurnames of hys pariſhioners, as well men, as women, (of thoſe I ſay) which being fourtene yeares of age, come not to the holy Communion (as by the ſtatutes and eccleſiaſticall lawes of this Realme, they are bound) & ſuch as refuſe to be examined by the miniſter of the church, in learning the Catechiſme, and articles of chriſtian religion, and what parentes or maiſters thincke ſcorne to ſende theyr children or ſeruauntes to churche, at the times appoynted, to heare and learne the ſame Catechiſme. They ſhall ſuffer none to vndertake for an Infante at Baptiſme, except he haue receiued the Communion, and haue bene partaker of the holy miſteries, and he ſhal admit none to the partaking of the ſacramẽts, which hath not learned the Catechiſme, and articles of the fayth.

Euery ſonday and holiday, the parſons, vicars, and curates, ſhall come to the churche ſo timely, and conueniently in due ſeaſon, that the

pariſh-

parishioners hauing done their busines, may come thether wᵗ their children & seruantes. And there they shal reuerently, (as it is fit) & godly say or sing the holy seruice, so plainly, so manifestly, & distinctly, that the people may heare & vnderstand, what is sayd or song, & therof receaue comforte and commoditie. The lyke reuerence and godlynes they shall obserue in celebratyng the most holy Sacramentes, so that they turne not to superstition, or worshippyng, or Idolatrie. But if that in tyme of the holy Communion there shalbe no sermon, they shall on the booke in the pulpit read some one, or other of those homelies, which we haue to that end set foorth before. In the meane tyme they shall exhorte the people, to come diligently to Church, that they attentiuely heare that which is read and sayd, and that all the tyme thereof, they vse themselues reuerently and modestly: and least the godly may be offended thorough wantonnes and lightnes, voyde of religion, they shall take heede that young men, especially contreymen, (whose nature is more prone to the contempt of godlines, and to disorder) neyther ring belles, neyther walke in the churches, nor haue idle talke together, nor by laughing, or noyse, or vnhoneſt iesting, eyther let the minister, or offend the people.

They shall admonish the people to come oftner to ẏ holy Cõmunion, & that before, they prepare themselues wᵗ a perfect minde, as it is fit. And that all may vnderstand, what duty they owe

to God: what dutie to the Prince whome they ought to loue & reuerence as the vicar of God: what they owe to the lawes, what to the magiſtrates, what to their brethren, what to the people of God: they ſhall be ready in the church ſtaight after noone, euery ſonday and holyday, & there at the leaſt, they ſhall read two houres, and teach the catechiſme, and therein ſhall inſtruct all their flocke of what age or degree ſoeuer, not onely maydens and childzen, but alſo the elder, if neede be. But eſpetially they ſhall warne young folkes, not onely men, but alſo women, that it is prouided by the lawes, that none of them may either receiue the holy communion, or be maried, or vndertake for a childe in baptiſme, except before, they haue learned the principles of Chriſten religion, and can fitly and aptly aunſwere to all the partes of the Catechiſme.

But if the parſons, vicars, or curates, either can not preache, or haue not receiued licence to preach of the Biſhop, yet they ſhall teach children to read, to write, and know their duty toward God, toward their parentes, and all others: and if they perceiue any of them to be of that diſpoſition, that by teaching and inſtruction, they may attayne to the knowledge of learning, they ſhall counſell their parentes, to ſet them to ſchole, that being endewed wyth learning, they may one day become fit for the holy miniſtery of the mighty God: but whome they perceiue to be duller, and not diſpoſed to

lear-

learnyng, to see them set to some other science, or to husbandrie.

They shall also warne their parishioners, that for great and weightie causes it was appointed in the cõuocation by the Reuerend father in God, Matthew Archbyshop of Canterburie, and the other bishops, that children mary not, without consent of the parentes, and that no young man hath power in hym selfe to contract mariage, before he be xxi. yeares of age, and no mayde before she be xiiij. yeares old.

Churchewardens and syde men.

Churchewardens accordyng to the custome of euery parishe, shalbe chosen by the consent of theyr parishioners, and theyr minister: otherwise they shall not be churchewardens: neither shall they continew any lenger then one yeare in that office, except perhaps they be chosen againe. And all churchwardens once euery yeare shal geue vp iust accounte of such money, as they haue receaued: and also particularly shall shewe, what coste they haue bestowed in reparations, and for the vse of the churche. Last of all goyng out of their offices, they shall truly deliuer vp to the parishioners, what soeuer money, or other ecclesiasticall thinges shall remayne, & be in their handes, that it may be redeliuered by them to the next churchwardens.

The Churchewardens ſhall ſee, that the churches be diligently and well repayred, with lead, tyle, lyme, and glaſſe, that neyther the miniſter, nor the people, either in the holy miniſterie and worſhippyng of God, or in celebratyng the heauenly miſteries, or in receauing and hearing the Communion, be troubled wyth tempeſtuous weather. But eſpecially they ſhall looke vnto, that in euery meting of the congregation peace be well kept: and in all viſitations of byſhops and archdeacons, they ſhall truly and perſonally preſente, and name all thoſe, which rudely behaue themſelues in the church, or whiche by vntymely rynging of belles, by walkyng, by talkyng, or noyſe, ſhall let the miniſter or preacher.

Churchwardens ſhall ſee, that the churches be kept cleane & reuerently, ỹ they be not lothſome to any, either by duſt, ſande, or any filthynes. They ſhall alſo ſee, that the holy Bibles be in euery church in the largeſt volume (if it may conueniently be) ſuch as were lately imprinted at London: that the booke of common prayers, that the holy homelies, and the homelies which lately were written againſt rebellio̅, be in euery church. It is meete that theſe bookes be whole and cleane, not torne or foule in any wiſe, leſt it breede irkſomnes or contempte amongeſt the people. They ſhall ſee, there be a fayre ioyned table, which may ſerue for the adminiſtration of the holy Communion, and a cleane clothe to couer it: a conuenient pulpit, whence the heauenly

uenly doctrine may be taught. Moreouer they ſhall ſee, that all roodloftes, in which woodden croſſes ſtood, & all other reliques of ſuperſtition be cleane taken away, ẏ the walles of the churches be new whited, and decked with choſen ſentences of the holy Scripture, that by the reading and warning thereof, the people may be moued to godlines. Laſt of all they ſhall ſee, that in euery church there be a holy founte, not a baſen, wherein Baptiſme may be miniſtred, and it be kept comely and cleane.

They ſhall alſo warn tauerners, alehouſekepers & victualers, which ſel meat or drinke, that they receiue none into their tauern or alehouſe, all ẏ time, wherin either is preaching, or cõmon ſeruice. If any do contrary, vpon contempte or ſtubbernes, they ſhall preſent both him, & them whome he receaued, by name in the next viſitation. If any offend their brethren, eyther by manifeſt adultery, or whoredome, or inceſt, or drunkennes, or much ſwearing, or baudry, or vſurie, or any other vnclennes and wickednes of life, let the churchwardens warne them brotherly and freendly, to amende. Which except they do, they ſhall by name ſhewe them to the parſon, vicar, or curate, that they may be warned more ſharply and vehemently of them: and if they continue ſo ſtill, let them be driuen from the holy Communion, till they be reformed: And that all which liue vnchaſtly and looſely, be puniſhed by the ſeueritie of the lawes, according to their deſertes. The ſame Church-

wardens shall present those adulterers, whoremongers, incestuous drunkardes, swearers, baudes, and vsurers in the Bishops, and Archdeacons visitations.

Churchwardens shall suffer no feasts, bankets, suppers, or common drinkings to be kept, in the church, neyther the belles to be rong superstitiously, either in ỳ feast of all soules, or the day after all saintes (which day not long since was kept holy for the soules of the dead) neyther at any time at all, whereas the custome of ringing shall seeme to encline to superstition. They shall suffer ringing onely at those times, which are appoynted in the booke of aduertisementes, and to that onely vse, and after that onely order.

It shall not be lawfull to keepe fayres, and common markets vpon the sonday: neyther on that day to put to death, and openly punish offenders cõdemned by the sentence of ỳ Judge.

They shall not suffer, that any of these light wanderers in markettes, and pelting sellers, which carry about, and sell pinnes, points, and other small trifles, whome they call pedlars, to set out theyr wares to sale, either in the churchyeardes, or in the porches of churches, or any where els, on holidayes or sondayes, whilest any part of the holy ministery is in doing, or any sermon is preached, neither that beggars, or bagabondes, which haue no certain dwelling, abide eyther in the churchyearde, or in the church porch, all the time of seruice, or preaching

ching: but shall commaunde them, either to come in, or to depart.

They shall also search, and diligently enquire, if any of the parishioners eyther come not at all to church, or come later or slower at ỳ times appointed by the lawes: and whom they shall finde so to offende, they shall punish them, according to the appointing of the lawe. They shall marke whether al & euery of the parishioners come so often euery yeare to the holy communion, as the lawes & statutes do cõmaund: and whether any straingers from other parishes, come more often and commonly to their church, and shall shew their curate of them, lest perhaps he admit them to the Lordes table amongst others, but shall sende them rather to their owne curates.

They shall receiue no parson, nor vicar, to the ministery of theyr church, but whome the Bishop shall allow by his institution, and by hys mandate shall put in possession of that church. They shall receyue no curate, but him that by the letters, and seale of the Bishop, is specially appointed for that church. But if the Parson, Vicar, or Curate, behaue himselfe otherwise in his ministery, or that he read ill, darckly, and confusedly, or that he liue more losely and licentiously then is fitte for a man of that calling, and therby great offence be taken: the churchwardens shall spedely present him to the Bishop, that by and by he may be punished, and amendment of his fault may follow.

And that the Bishop may vnderstande, what sermons are made in euery church of his dioces: the churchwardens shall see, that the names of all preachers, whiche come to them from any other place, be noted in a boke, which they shall haue ready for that purpose, and that euery preacher subscribe his name in that boke, and the name of the Bishop, of whome he had licence to preach.

Last of all, the churchwardens shall see, that all thinges be diligently obserued, which pertayne to theyr offices, and that are contayned in the Queenes iniunctions, and the boke of aduertisementes, and that shall be set foorth by the Archbishop or Bishop in euery their visitations, for the vse of the churches. But if any do rayle vpon them, or goe to law with them, for doing theyr dutie, and detecting of offenders, that also they shall presente vnto the Bishop, that by his meanes and trauaill they may more easely be deliuered from that trouble.

Preachers.

NO man shall openly preach in his parish, but being licenced by ỳ Bishop, neyther hereafter shall be so bold, as preach out of his own cure & church, except he haue obtayned licence so to preach, eyther of the Queenes Maiestie, ouer all her realme: eyther of the Archbishop, through his prouince: or of the Bishop, in his dioces. And

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no licence to preach, shall hereafter stande in force, but that which hath bene obtayned after the last day of Aprill, which was in the yeare, 1571. Preachers shall behaue them selues modestly and soberly in all their life.

But chiefly they shall take heede, that they teach nothing in their preaching, which they would haue the people religiously to obserue, and beleue, but that which is agreeable to the doctrine of the olde Testament, or the newe, and that which the catholike fathers, and auncient Bishops haue gathered out of that doctrine. And because those articles of Christian religion, agreed vpon by the Bishoppes, in the lawfull, and godly conuocation, and by the commaundement, and authoritie of our noble princesse Elizabeth assembled and holden, vndoubtedly are gathered out of the holy bookes of the olde, and newe Testamente, and in all pointes agree with the heauenly doctrine contayned in them: because also the booke of common prayers, and the booke of the consecration of Archbishops, Bishops, Ministers and Deacons containe nothing repugnant to the same doctrine, whosoeuer shall be sent to teach the people, shall not onely in their preaching, but also by subscription confirm the authoritie, and truth of those articles. He that doth otherwise, or troubleth the people with contrary doctrine shall be excommunicated.

In preaching they shall weare a very modest and graue garment, which may becomme

and ſet foorth the miniſter of God, and ſuch as is preſcribed in the booke of aduertiſementes. They ſhall require no money or rewarde for theyr preaching, but ſhall be content with meat and drincke, and playne prouiſion, and one nightes lodging.

They ſhall teach no vayne, and olde wiues opinions, no hereſies, nor popiſh errors, diſagreeing from the doctrine and fayth of Chriſt: neyther any thing at all, whereby the rude people may be ſtirred vp to the deſire of nouelties, or contention. But they ſhall alwayes teach that, which may make for edifying, and may vnite the hearers in Chriſtian peace and loue.

Reſidences.

THe abſence of the ſhepheard from the Lordes flocke, and that careles negligence, whiche we doe ſee in many, and forſakyng of the miniſterie, is a thing in it ſelf to be abhorred and odious to the people, and pernitious to the churche of God. Therefore we exhorte all paſtors of churches, in the Lorde Jeſu, that foorthwith they returne euery one to theyr pariſhes, and diligently teach the goſpell, according to theyr liuing to keep houſe, to helpe the poore by hoſpitalitie, and there to be reſident euery yeare no leſſe then lx. dayes.

Plura-

IT shall be lawfull for no man, of what degree, or order so euer he be, to haue at one time, any more then two ecclesiastical benefices: neither shall it be lawful for any man at all, to obtaine two benifices, if they be distant more then xxvj. miles.

Of Scholemaisters.

IT shall not be lawfull for any to teach the Latine tongue, or to instructe children, neyther openly in the scholes, neither priuately in any mans house, but whome the Bishop of that diocesse hath allowed, & to whome he hath geuen licence to teach vnder the seale of his office. And here we except, (for honours sake) the Lordes of the Parliament: but the Bishop shall allow no Scholemaister, nor accompt him worthy of ẏ office, but whom he shal finde in his iudgement to be learned, and worthy of that place, and whome he shall see commended by the testimonie of godly men, touching his life and manners, and especially hys religion.

Scholemaisters shall teach no Grammer, but onely that, which the Queenes Maiestie hath commaunded to be read in all Scholes, through the whole realme, neyther any other Latine Catechisme, then that which was sette

forth, in the yeare. 1570: The which also, that is translated into English, we wil haue taught vnto children, that are ignorant of the Latin toung.

All other bookes they shall teach, whereby the fulnes and fynenes of the Latin & Greeke toung may be learned, & those especially, which profite to the knowledge of Christ and godlynes. And once euery yeare they shall signifie to the Byshop, what chosen scholers they haue of all their number, whiche are of that aptenes, & so forward in learnyng, that there may be good hope they will become fitte, either for the common wealth, or for the holy ministerie. By this hope the parētes beyng allured, will more willyngly kepe them at schole.

But chiefly they shall so order and frame the tounges of children, that they may pronounce openly, playnly and distinctly. And as often as any sermon shalbe, they shall either send them, or bryng them to church, that from their childhode they may be brought vp in godlines: & lest they should heare it negligently: at their return to schole, they shall call and examine euery one, what they haue learned out of that sermon: and that the myndes of children, may be the more styred vp to vertue and diligence: they shall rebuke the idle and sluggish, and shall prayse the attentiue and diligent.

Pa-

Patrones and Proprietaries.

THe Bishop shall earnestly and diligently exhorte patrones of benefices, to cõsider the necessities of ỳ churches and to haue before theyr eyes the last day, and iudgement, and the tribunall seate of God. Therefore that they preferre no man to any ecclesiasticall liuing, but him which by doctrine, iudgement, godlines, honestie, and innocencie of life, is able to beare so heuy a burthen, ỳ they do nothing therin, but vprightly, vncorruptly & truly: & he shall professe that he wil vse all honest, and lawful meanes to search out the truth. But if, either in the presentation, or els after he shall perceiue any corruption, or simony to be committed any way, eyther closely, eyther directly, or indirectly, by him, or any other, eyther that money, or monyworth, or that any commoditie, or any part of the profites shoulde come vnto him: that he then will publishe and declare this wicked deed and simonie, not only in the cathedrall church, but also els where, to his shame and perpetuall reproch, & also thruste out that minister, whom he so wickedly presented, not onely from the office of a priest, whiche he vnlawfully entred: but also from all ministery, and out of the whole dioces.

Humble petition must be made to the Queenes maiestie, that some way by her leaue, and commaundement may be founde, that the

chauncels of those churches, may spedely be repayred, which by impropriation are come vnto her, and that a yearely stipend may be appoynted for seruing the cure thereof: for now in many places both the chauncels are fowly fallen down, and the ministery of the church is destitute, because of the smalenes of the stipend.

The Bishop shall see, that à true inuentory, and (as they call it) à terrey, of all the landes, meadowes, gardens, orchardes, which belong to any parsonage, or vicarage, be taken by the vewe of honest men, and be layd vp in his treasurie of euidences, for a perpetuall memorie thereof.

The Bishop shall not suffer the farmer of any benefice, to haue any authoritie ouer the minister of God, that he may either admitte, or reiect him. Neyther shall the minister take lesse, then x. poundes for his stipend.

All matrimonies, which any where are contracted within ỳ degrees of cõsanguinty, or affinitie, forbidden in the xviij. of Leuiticus, shall be dissolued by the authoritie of the Bishop: but especially, if any man, his first wife being dead, shall take her sister to wife: for this degree, by common consente, and iudgemente of learned men is thought to be forbidden in Leuiticus.

It shall not be lawfull for any man, to mary within those degrees, which are forbidden in the table written, and published for that ende, by the reuerend father in God, the Archbishop of Canterburie.

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¶ The forme of the sentence of excommunication.

Brethren, because all we whiche doe professe the name of Christ Jesu, are members of one body, & it is meete that one mẽber should feele, and suffer the grief of another member: by reason of mine office I signify vnto you, that A. B. is openly accused of adultery, wherin, the reporte is, that he hath liued wickedly, and filthily, to his shame and infamy, and greuous offence of the churche of God: and for that cause he is cyted to the bishops consistory, that his notorious disorder may some way be punished. And because the foresayd A. B. through giltines of his wickednes, hath cõtemned to appeare at the day lawfully named, and stubburnely hath withdrawen him self from Justice, and by his example hath harted others to the lyke stubburnes: therfore, this I further warne you, that

our byshop, by the name and authoritie of the moſt mighty God, hath excommunicated him from all company of the churche of God, & hath cut him of as a dead member, from the body of Chriſt: In this ſtate, & in ſo great daũger of his ſoule is he at this tyme. S. Paul beyng taught by the inſpiration of the holy ghoſt, commaundeth that we eſchue the fellowſhyp, & company of ſuch men, leſt we be partakers of the ſame wickednes. Yet, as Chriſtian charitie warneth vs, becauſe he will not pray for him ſelfe, neither vnderſtãdeth his daunger, let vs all in his name pray vnto God, that once he may acknowledge his miſerie and filthynes of lyfe, and may repent, and turne vnto God. For our God is mercifull, and can call them from death, that were fallen.